

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Cannot See The Light For The Sun

(Jerry Fite)


What would it be like if the sun quit shining? Nine minutes later, the earth would go dark. Within a week, the temperature on earth would be “0 degrees Fahrenheit.” If you were still living, you and the rest of the world would be burning up the supply of trees which, without light, could never replenish itself. The once calculated 150-year supply of coal on earth would quickly come to an end as rich and poor alike forage for their share of light and warmth.

Does light end when the sun, trees, and coal cease luminating? Like the sound of a falling tree being heard when there is no one in the forest, Is light’s brightness seen when there is no one on earth to see? Before we spend too much time philosophizing, let us unite in the truth revealed in Genesis one.

“And God said, ‘Let there be light; and there was light’ (Genesis 1:3). On day one, God created light. It was not until the fourth day when the sun, moon, and the stars were created giving and reflecting light upon the earth. One does not have to theorize that the sun, moon, and the stars were created on day one, but only appeared on day four in order to establish some self-imposed sense of harmonizing truth.

God is glorious, being the source of light. He said let there be light, and light became, and appeared the same day.

Early on, men dishonored God by not seeing light beyond the created luminating things. God condemned hardened hearts by shutting the eyes of His idolatrous people, keeping them from seeing the one true God. They took an axe and cut down a rain nourished tree. Then, they made part of the tree an idol. With another part, they burned the wood to heat their food, and warmed their bodies. They then offered their worship to the tree saying, “Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire” (Isaiah 44:16). They could not see the glorious God, for the trees.

Early on, man worshipped the sun as the source of light and life. The “father” of all Egyptian “gods” was “Ra” – the sun god. He appeared in idol form with the face of a hawk, and a serpent draped on top of a golden disk for a crown. His left hand held a scepter, and his right hand handled the “ankh”  the symbol of life.

In Abraham’s original homeland of the Ur of the Chaldees, inhabitants may have been

“moon worshippers” worshipping the moon goddess – “Nanna.” Elihu assures Job that his heart has not been enticed to kiss his hand toward the moon, walking across the sky in brightness (*Job 31:26-27*). Worshipping the moon, the created reflector of light, does not honor God, the source of light.

After the present heavens and earth are burned up, heaven will be gloriously lighted by God. “*And the city hath no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine upon it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the lamp thereof is the lamb*” (*Revelation 21:23*).

The sun gives earth light, and adds continuance to life, but the Gospel offers us spiritual light and life. Jesus, through His death and resurrection, abolished the lasting effects of death, and “*brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel*” (*2 Timothy 2:10*). Look beyond the sun, and grasp the fact that “*God is light, and in Him is no darkness of all*” (*1 John 1:5*). Sunlight does not offer immortality, but God, the Creator does through his Son. Enjoy the sun’s dawning, but make sure you also walk with God, whose glorious light will brighten heaven when the sun no longer shines.